

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice to continued prosecution. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kunig (US Patent No. 4,622,980).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 8-10 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

Claims 1 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ekwall (US Patent No. 6,016,443).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 8-10 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is moot.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ekwall (or 103(a) for Kunig).

Applicants believe that the Examiner rejected claim 7 as anticipated over Ekwall or, in the alternative, as obvious over Kunig. If this understanding is not correct, Applicants respectfully request clarification regarding this rejection.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 7 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), is moot.

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Claims 2-6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekwall (or Kunig) in view of Ben-Haim (6,285,898).

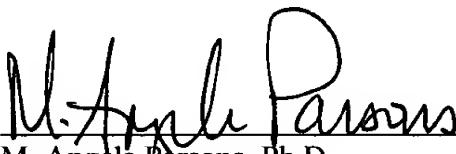
Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 2-6 and 11 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 12-15 and 21-27 as indicated in the Office Action mailed February 24, 2004. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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